or affecting the members of the ruling family. It will affect them in the sense that they will be benefitted to a small extent financially. But whether that is the spirit of the rule, it is for the Chair to decide.

Dr. A. R. Menon :— It is a question that affects the Municipalities. That aspect also may be considered. I am more anxious about the Municipalities and under that pretext, it should be thrown out.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon :— Sir, when we, the loyal citizens of the State, oppose this Bill, we have to speak against the Princes. It is rather awkward.

Mr. A. Sankara Menon :— Exemption is to the Princes as Princes and not as individuals as stated by the Law Member.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran :— I didn't state that.

President :— Though in a sense the matter affects the Municipalities, in general I think that a correct ruling on the point has very important consequences and, as I find a distinction made in the Standing Orders and the Rules between the Ruling Family of Cochin on the one hand and the Maharaja or the other Members of the Ruling Family on the other, it cannot be said that there is no distinction between the terms "the Ruling Family" as ruling family and "the members constituting the family." Therefore, I want to take time to consider the matter and I shall give my ruling only to-morrow.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran :— Then this Bill may be attended to to-morrow.

President :— Yes.

The Cochin Trade Unions Bill.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran :— I rise to introduce "The Cochin Trade Unions Bill". The time available for the House consists precisely of something less than 2 hours to-day and 5 or 6 hours tomorrow. Besides most of these Bills are only in the preliminary stage and I am going to move the House that this one may be committed to a Select Committee. Therefore, I am not going to make any speech. With regard to the necessity, the Government have been satisfied that some such measure should be included in our Statute Book. I beg the leave of the House to introduce the Bill.

I move that the Bill be read in Council.

Mr. C. J. Mathew :— I second it.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Motion put and carried.

Mr C. J. Mathew :— The title of the Bill is "The Cochin Trade Unions Bill".

Mr. Thomas Manjuran :— I further move that the Bill, although not of a very controversial nature, may, containing as it does very important provisions of a far-reaching character, be referred to a Select Committee. I propose the following names as members of the Select Committee:— Messrs. P. Krishna Menon, P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan, Paul Mampilli, K. Ayyappan, K. M. Ibrahim, T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar and the Government Advocate.

Motion put and carried.

President :— I nominate the Government Advocate as the Chairman of the Committee. The committee will report in 3 months.

The Cochin Criminal Law Amendment Bill.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran :— I rise to move that "The Cochin Criminal Law Amendment Bill" be read in Council.

Mr. C. J. Mathew:— I second it.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran :— This Bill deals with the offence of what is known as criminal conspiracy. Although this Bill is drawn up exactly in the language of an existing measure in British India, since it contains provisions of a rather important and far-reaching nature, I think it would be advisable to refer this Bill also to a Select Committee. I would hence move that the Bill be read in Council.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar :— I oppose the introduction of the Bill itself, because it will commit us to the position of having accepted the principle of the Bill. When it is referred to a Select Committee, we will be told "You have not opposed the Bill when it was introduced. So you cannot oppose it now." If we don't oppose the Bill at this stage, we will be estopped from opposing the Bill at the committee stage.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran:— I shall read the provisions of the Bill.

"When two or more persons agree to do, or cause to be done,—

(1) An illegal act or,

(2) An act which is not illegal by illegal means, such an agreement is designated a criminal conspiracy:

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly